हवाई टैक्सी प्रचालक अनुसूचित परिचालनों के लिये खुले किसी भी हवाई अड्डे के लिये उड़ान परिचालित कर सकते हैं।

(ख) और (ग) हवाई टैक्सी प्रचालकों के साथ 16-7-91 को हुई बैठक में हवाई टैक्सी प्रचालकों द्वारा हवाई अड्डों पर स्थान, विमानों के रख-रखाव और विमानों के आयात के लिये सीमा-शुल्क में कमी करने से संबंधित समस्यायें उठाई गई।

(घ) और (ङ) राष्ट्रीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण और भारत अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण को अनुदेश जारी किये गये हैं कि वे हवाई टैक्सी प्रचालकों को हवाई अड्डों पर यथासंभव सुविधायें और सहायता उपलब्ध करायें। वित्त मंत्रालय के साथ परामर्श करके वित्तीय पहलुओं की जांच की जा रही है।

Revision of fares by Indian Airlines

934. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how many times Indian Airlines domestic fares were revised during the last three years till date;

(b) what are the factors which led to such a revision each time; and

(c) whether there were any improvements in the facilities offered to the commuters; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The domestic fares of Indian Airlines were revised five times during the last three years for the reasons indicated below:—

Date of Revision	*Reasons*
16.2.1989	Fares on sectors upto 500 KM were rationalised.
9.7.89	Increase in various costs such as route navigation charges, material consumption and financing charges.
11.4.90	Increase in the price of Aviation Turbine Fuel, led to increase in the fuel surcharge.
26.9.90	Gulf Evacuation Surcharge @ 10% of the total fare was introduced to offset partially the costs incurred on evacuation of Indian Nationals from the Gulf Region.
7.10.91	Increase in the price of Aviation Turbine Fuel and additional liability due to re-adjustment of rate of exchange of Indian Rupee vis-a-vis foreign currencies.

(c) Indian Airlines has identified among other things, courtesy and comfort to passengers as thrust areas of its services. The following measures have been taken in this regard:—

— Standardised three digits telephone enquiry has been provided on all-India basis.

— Tele-text services through Doordarshan to be extended to Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, in addition, to Delhi where it already exists.

— Introduction of a computerised delay information dissemination system named "RAPID" which automatically dials all passengers of a delayed flight whose telephone numbers are available with Indian Airlines to intimate them about the re-scheduled departure timing. This system has been introduced on an experimental basis in Delhi and, if found successful, may be extended to other places also.

— Computerised and free check-in facility has been made available at Delhi, Madras, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Bangalore. This facility is being extended to other stations in a phased manner.

— Close monitoring of on-time performance.

— Inflight catering has been improved through quality control checks, introduction of 14 different new menus, introduction of new crockery and cutlery in Executive class.

Airports on Air Taxi Map

935. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 259, given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th November, 1991 and state:

(a) what is the number of air taxies that are under operation at present; and

(b) the names of Airports which have been brought under air taxi map in India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) At present, six permits have been issued for operation of air taxi services.

(b) The air taxi operators are permitted to operate to all airports open to scheduled operations.

Modernisation of Coal Mines

936. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of coal mines at present in the country;

(b) what was the production capacity of each of the coal mines against actual production during the last three years;

(c) whether any modernisation plans have been chalked out or are under execution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) There are 520 coal mines in the country.

(b) Production capacity and actual production of Coal India Limited and Singreni Collieries Limited for last three years are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXI, Annexure No. 23]

(c) and (d) Modernisation of coal industry is a continuous process and is taken up progressively in both underground and opencast mines. Modernisation is being done gradually by introduction of modern mining methods. Some of the modern mining methods being introduced are as follows:—

(i) Deployment of large capacity shovels, dumpers and draglines in opencast mines.

(ii) Impit crushing & conveying system for overburden and coal.

(iii) Introduction of mechanised Board & Pillar system.

(iv) Introduction of Side Discharge Loaders/Load Haul Dumpers.

(v) Introduction of continuous Miners such as Road Headers.

(vi) Powered Support Longwall technology.

(vii) Augur-cum-Drills.

(viii) Blasting Gallery method.

(ix) Hydraulic Mining.

Modernisation of coal mines has resulted in overall increase in coal production and productivity.

अपीलीय प्राधिकरण द्वारा मामलों का निपटान

937. श्री ईश दत्त यादव : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कोयलाधारक क्षेत्र (अर्जन और विकास) अधिनियम, 1957 के अधीन अपीलीय प्राधिकरण के समक्ष पिछले पांच वर्षों के दौरान कितने मामले आये और उनमें से कितने मामलों का निपटान किया गया ;